

## Four Points for Torrance

Leaders in the campaign to bring the new four-year state college to a Torrance site were surprisingly jubilant with the decision of the campus planning committee to recommend the Palos Verdes site and the approval of that recommendation Friday by the full board of trustees for state colleges.

Strange as it may appear, the local boosters came away from the three-day round of meetings feeling more hopeful than ever that a Torrance site eventually will be selected. They base that hope on conditions attached to acceptance of the Palos Verdes site by the planning committee.

As a first condition, the committee said adequate land must be available with funds now available.

Informed men who considered the state's appraisal of \$32,000 an acre for Palos Verdes property say the price is far short of what it would actually cost. Developers now building on the site indicated the state could not acquire the property without the lengthy and costly process of condemnation.

A second condition states that zoning and access problems must be resolved with cities, the county, and the state.

Rolling Hills Estates, the only city involved with the Palos Verdes site, has approved the hill location so long as that city is not required to offer any services. The city apparently wants the status of the college but none of the responsibilities for services. The County Board of Supervisors, in whose area the college would lie, has voted unanimously to protest the Peninsula location. It will be the reluctant supervisors who would be called on to provide access to the nearly isolated campus site.

Torrance, on the other hand, is so eager to get the college that its officials have promised to meet all zoning and access requirements, and perhaps throw in a couple of extras "on the house."

Another condition attached to the Palos Verdes site is the requirement for a favorable community climate for the college.

This may be as important as any for Torrance boosters. With the exception of a handful of individuals, the Peninsula is firmly opposed to the proposed Palos Verdes location. Leading spokesmen for Peninsula residents have been vocal in their opposition to the college, citing the prestige residential nature of the area as a deterrent to the proper college atmosphere.

The Torrance site can offer complete acceptance, and will offer students and faculty the additional benefits of commercial, industrial, and residential facilities which the Palos Verdes area cannot provide.

Finally, the committee said soil conditions must be suitable for construction of the college building and facilities.

Palos Verdes could lose out on this technical point regardless of the wishes of the trustees. The comprehensive report prepared by the city of Torrance, which included studies of the Torrance and the Palos Verdes site, drew attention to the serious slide problems which have plagued the area, including portions of the proposed college site. The Torrance site offers no problem in this connection.

When it's all added up, Torrance still offers the best selection as a college site—with many added points not discussed here.

One late point, however, in Torrance's favor is the offer of the Department of the Navy to make arrangements to transfer the 26-acre Naval Annex site to the state for college purposes.

It's just one more reason why the Torrance site is the only one which can be supported with logic.

## Opinions of Others

The oil industry's ability to service the 12.5 million American homes that rely on oil heat received a stiff challenge during the unusual cold of the past winter—and all reports indicate the challenge was successfully met. According to an American Petroleum Institute publication, the industry delivered more than 19 billion gallons of fuel oil between September 1, 1962, and March 1, 1963—a six per cent increase over the same period a year ago.

According to an article in a publication of the American Medical Association, scientific proof has been offered that weather can affect arthritis. The author, Dr. Joseph Lee Hollander, reported that symptoms of arthritic patients became worse when barometric pressure was lowered and humidity was increased simultaneously under scientific controlled conditions.

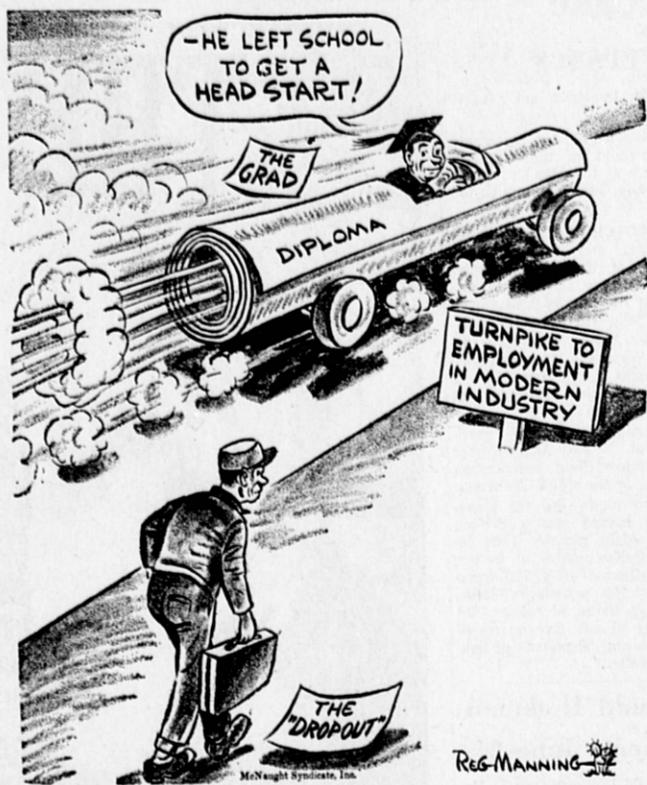
## LIFE'S LIKE THAT

By FRED NEHER



"Nonsense... With social security and pension plans... No one ends up in the poor house today!!"

## I Remember Him—



## ROYCE BRIER

# Nation's Apollo Program Raises Debate on Worth

James E. Webb is a name you may not know, but he heads the fastest growing business in the world. He is the Space Administrator.

Those who visit the Cocoa Beach community at Cape Canaveral say that on the highway approaches you come to towns, "Gateway to the Moon" and "Gateway to the Universe." Folk who live at Cocoa Beach are for all practical purposes extraterrestrial, and no longer speak terrestrial language. Even the real estate and motel boys, who are doing all right, speak

extraterrestrial, though not adverse to terrestrial money.

Anyway, Mr. Webb, who is the biggest presence at Canaveral even when he's absent, is pretty annoyed with snuffy characters who are skeptical of his moon project, its cost and the return of the investment. It's called Apollo, and a man is supposed to hit the moon—and return—by 1970.

Mr. Webb's indignation may or may not be related to Astronaut Cooper's orbits. It is certainly related to the Administration's trouble over the whole space program.

Mr. Webb said the program, particularly Apollo, is essential to the American "image" as a "can-do" people. He said critics don't grasp that our international leadership and economic and military capacity are at stake.

Some scientists doubt that a takeoff after a moon landing is at all feasible in the immediate future. They think prevailing dreams for exploring the lunar crust are chimerical. Some military men doubt any military advantage in a landing. Some congressmen think the announced cost, \$20 billion, is high.

But these are technical matters beyond the ken of the

lay citizen. The Nation's image, however, is a philosophical and historical matter with room for argument.

How did the United States get its present "image"? A French woman made radioactivity available, an Italian laid the ground work for nuclear energy, and the Germans invented rockets (after the Chinese).

The image of a Nation is not confined to technics. It runs to the kind of life a Nation has made over the years, to freedom to act, to acquire and to speak. It runs to its institutions, whether integration or its arts or its political rationality. It runs to use of its land and to its heritage of ideas, whether just or unjust, wise or foolish.

Since 1776, this country has had a pretty good image, quite aside from wealth and "can-do." You won't find a better, though it can be improved. But improvement costs, in sheer money and energy and sacrifice for a higher good.

Whether the money, energy and sacrifice are better devoted to first-on-the-moon, or to the fortunate part of the earth we inhabit, and the image we make there—that is what the skeptics wonder about.

## A Bookman's Notebook

# Vatican Council Reports Set Off Guessing Game

William Hogan

The most meaningful and exciting historical account of Pope John's Vatican Council, from October to December of last year, appeared in two "Letters From Vatican City" that The New Yorker published during the event. A clear-sighted, excellent book which reads with the ease of a novel by Morris L. West has been expanded from these pieces. Titled "Letters From Vatican City," it is being published by Farrar, Straus & Cudahy (\$3.95). The author? Xavier Rynne, a pseudonym.

Actually, two writers are involved. I have no idea who they are, and for their own reasons they prefer to remain anonymous. The Jesuit magazine America hailed the original pieces as among the best on the council, so the work hardly can be called anti-Catholic. Who is Xavier Rynne? No hint in the preface to the book:

"It should be made clear that Xavier Rynne is not a 'disgruntled Catholic clergyman' (The Priest), nor 'Roman student who, after failing his final exams, criticized the Roman educational sys-

tem' (American Ecclesiastical Review), nor 'a fellow named Wilfrid Sheed, who used to write for Jubilee' (a letter to The New Yorker), nor 'a mild Redemptorist professor of Church history' (Camden Star Herald), nor—as one or another of us has personally been told—'an American Bishop,' 'an English Dominican,' 'a writer inspired by the Vatican Secretariat of State,' nor, finally, believe it or not, 'Jack Kerouac.'"

They conclude: "The authors have no ecclesiastical, theological or other axes to grind. The book is an attempt to give the reader a meaningful account of the proceedings during the eight weeks of the first session of Vatican Council II, with enough background material to understand what the debates and discussions were all about. The council was essentially a religious experience; it can be understood only as such."

In spite of what one might think of this silly mystery of authorship, the book is a little historical gem that sweeps away the veils of uncertainty and almost medieval obscur-

## James Dorais

# Rafferty on the Carpet Over 'Slang' Dictionary

State Superintendent Max Rafferty, exercising his "constitutional duty to give advice to local districts," expressed disapproval last week of the book, "Dictionary of American Slang." The book, which is available to students in some school libraries, was termed by Rafferty a "practical handbook of sexual perversion" and "as out of place in schools as a test tube of cholera."

Predictably, the good Doctor's ill-wishers manned the ramparts with anguished protests against "censorship." Big Daddy Unruh, Speaker of the Assembly, compared censorship with pregnancy, on the ground that once commenced, neither can be stopped.

The State Board of Education took the occasion to adopt a resolution giving local districts the right to select books for their libraries that "satisfy the needs of serious students and inquiring minds." Since local districts already have that right, the only practical effect of the resolution, in the context of the argument over the particular book in controversy, was to raise the question of what the Board members consider students' needs to be.

Rafferty, who was elected by parents dissatisfied with the way English has been taught in California schools, also was chided for his stand by the California Assn. of Teachers of English.

What the State Superintendent's critics are saying is that once a book has been placed in a school library—even if poor judgment has been used in selecting it—it may never, never be removed. Even if an error has been made, it can never be corrected, because that would be censorship.

It is not too far fetched to imagine an ardent devotee of the look-and-say reading method selecting Henry Miller's "Tropic of Cancer" for a grade school library. Constant repetition of short words is the heart of the look-and-say method, and the Miller masterpiece is famous for that.

If, under a change of administration, the school de-

vised to teach reading by the phonics method, "Tropic of Cancer" would no longer serve a purpose. Yet it would have to remain forever in the grade school library, whereas obviously it would be far better to transfer it to a junior high school library, where it would more suitably satisfy the needs of serious students.

Big Daddy is right. Censorship is like pregnancy in that sometimes it's a good idea and sometimes it isn't. The same day the great

censorship story broke, the Public Health Service called attention to a startling rise in teenage venereal diseases in California, citing an increase in homosexual practices as one of the causes. Despite the strictures of the State Board of Education and the California Assn. of Teachers of English against censorship in any form, a good many people will insist on wondering whether purchasing "a practical handbook of sexual perversion" for school libraries is a sensible way of meeting the teenage VD problem.

## Around the World With



# DELAPLANE

"We change planes to go to Europe from New York. I understand we can buy cigarettes cheaper on the plane and we want as many as we can when we land..."

Cheaper on the plane but not all brands available. And not always in quantity. American lines usually carry just enough for package sale at the seat. BOAC usually carries only British. Swissair seems to favor Kents and carries them by the carton to sell in quantities.

Safer bet is to buy at the tax and duty-free store at the Idlewild Airport departure building. (Both liquor stores and cigarette shops on the second deck.) These cost about \$1.50 a carton. Liquor is about \$2.50 a fifth.

There is one problem with this. You order and pay and delivery is made ON the plane. Now you are only allowed two cartons of cigarettes in most countries. Foreign Customs are pretty lenient IF you don't push them right in their face. If they see you have more, they HAVE to charge you.

So—carry a couple of flight bags if you can. Distribute anything over two cartons in bags, coat pockets, any where. The usual question by Customs is: "How many cigarettes?" Your answer is: "Just enough for my personal use." Or: "Have you anything to declare?" Answer: "No, just articles for personal use." That usually does it.

Cigarettes (American), by the way, will cost you 70 cents in England; 60 cents in France; \$1 in Greece; 35 cents in Spain; or 25 cents in Mallorca where they are smuggled. Load up in Spain or on airplanes between countries.

"Do you think it advisable for a young woman to go to Mexico City alone on a vacation?"

Safe enough. There's a little gigolo work and some shakedown in some of the tourist centers. I'd try to meet some tourist men rather than locals. Mexico City is not the best place for this. It's more relaxed around Guernavaca or at the nearby Lake Tequiquintengo resorts.

"Our 19-year-old daughter wants to go to Europe and bicycle around alone. We don't think this is at all safe..." Police controls make Europe a lot safer than America for travelers. But I don't think she'll have much fun alone. Write American Youth Hostels, New York City, and get their list of summer bicycle or scooter trips.

They've got some where a supervisor goes with the group for a month. Then they turn the group loose—but as a group or in pairs. By that time, they know how to get along. Then they go alone and practice what they learned. Inexpensive, too.

"My husband and I will be in Paris for two weeks and then on to the Middle East. We have a 6-year-old girl and wonder what to do about baby-sitters."

Paris is loaded with baby-sitting services. I always worked mine by calling the housekeeper—usually you can get one of the off-duty maids. The Middle East I don't know. It is custom in some of these countries to have male baby-sitters. But friends of mine in the Embassies have advised strongly against it.

"We will stay several days in Tahiti. Can you drink tap water?"

I do. I never saw bottled water being served to friends who live there so I supposed it was OK.

"Where would we buy cowboy boots on a trip through the Southwest United States?"

Nearly all stores carry Justin's which are good, ready-made boots. Some very good stores I know are F. L. Light in Steamboat Springs, Colo., and Porter's in Phoenix, Ariz.

If you want the very best hand made-to-measure boots (\$75 to \$100), see Sam Lucchese at the shop on Commerce Street in San Antonio, Tex. They'll fit immediately and last your life.

"How much do you tip on an American train in a roomette?"

I'd say 50 to 75 cents a day. If you're getting extra service—ice, soda, sandwiches—increase it to \$1. Tip at the end of the trip.

## Morning Report:

Abe Mellinkoff is on vacation.

Abe Mellinkoff



"One way to be popular is to listen closely to a lot of things you already know."

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